



cityNEWS



CITY PLANS PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Several Golden Valley playgrounds, including Brookview Park, will get new equipment over the next year.

SEE PAGES 6 & 8-9

Photo by Paul W. Flower
Views of the Valley 2013

MOVE OVER FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES

Help keep the roads safer for emergency personnel doing their jobs.

SEE PAGE 14

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Tax Levy Increase Will Maintain City Service Levels

One of the City's primary goals is continuing quality services for its taxpayers. Golden Valley's responsible, long-term perspective to financial planning and management is evaluated each year, starting with budget planning in January and concluding in December when the City Council adopts the budget and certifies the final property tax levy.

Citizens can provide input during the budget process by attending meetings or contacting City Council members or staff.

Proposed City Tax Levy Increase

At its Sept 3 meeting, the Golden Valley City Council certified a preliminary 2014 tax levy of \$17,435,574, a 2.9 percent increase from 2013. Of that, the levy for the general fund went up 2.57 percent. The levy the Council approved Sept 3 will be used for the proposed property tax statements that will be mailed in November. It cannot be increased but can only be decreased.

Total Levy

The total levy is made up of a general fund levy, tax abatement levy, and bonded debt levy (see below). The general fund levy increased by \$314,094 in order to balance the budget so revenues equal expenditures. Changes to the proposed budget will

cover fuel increases, salary adjustments, and the addition of 1.5 full-time positions to help with proactive housing maintenance inspections.



Why Did My Taxes Increase Even Though My Property Value Decreased?

The City's overall taxable market value decreased .66 percent. The levy is applied to that value to come up with the City's tax rate. The need for City services (such as street repair, snow plowing, police and fire calls, and more) is not always dependent on residents' property values. The City evaluates service levels every year during the budget process.

Proposed Property Tax Statement

City taxes make up one portion of the entire tax bill. To understand the City portion of your overall proposed tax levy, find the line on the statement that says "City of Golden Valley." For more information about how your City tax dollars are used or the City's proposed 2014 budget or tax levy, check out the City budget at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/budget/index.php or past issues of Golden Valley CityNews at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/publications/citynews/index.php.

City Tax Levy

- 1 The General Fund Levy funds City operations such as police, fire, engineering, park & rec programs, snowplowing, buildings, inspections, administration, etc.
- 2 Tax abatement bonds were issued to pay for intersection improvements at Hwy 55 and Boone Ave. This debt is paid from the increased value of the new General Mills building.
- 3 The Bonded Debt Levy will increase to pay existing bond issues sold for the City's pavement management street improvements.
- 4 Equipment Certificates are debt that is sold to pay for equipment and vehicles, such as fire pumpers, police squads, and dump trucks. The City schedules replacement of equipment and reviews each item before the purchase is made.

	Actual 2013	Proposed 2014
General Fund Levy ¹	\$ 12,218,066	\$ 12,532,160
Tax Abatement Levy ²	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
Bonded Debt Levy:		
Street Improvement Bonds ³	\$ 3,688,150	\$ 3,841,495
Equipment Certificates ⁴	\$ 738,016	\$ 761,919
Sub-Total	\$ 4,426,166	\$ 4,603,414
Total Levy	\$ 16,944,232	\$ 17,435,574

Fonnest, Schmidgall, Snope Elected

The Golden Valley City Council will have two new members when it reconvenes Jan 7, 2014—Larry Fonnest and Andy Snope. Steve Schmidgall returns to complete the final two years of the term he was appointed to fill on a temporary basis nearly a year ago.

In the Nov 5 City election, Fonnest and Snope defeated seven other candidates (Simon Gottlieb, Bob Hernz, Greg Keivit, Chris Miller, Gillian Rosenquist, Paul Scofield, and Jacquelyn Smith) to fill two four-year Council terms. Current Council members Paula Pentel and DeDe Scanlon did not seek reelection.

Schmidgall defeated John Geise in a special election to fill the remaining two years of Mike Freiberg's (now a state legislator) four-year term. See all election results at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections/index.php.

Schmidgall has lived in Golden Valley since 1984 and is a project executive at KUD International. He served on the City's Planning Commission from 2005–2012 and previously served as chair of the Robbinsdale School District's Financial Advisory Council as well as various positions over the years in Sandburg Middle School and Neill Elementary School parent-teacher organizations. Schmidgall has a degree in environmental design (architecture) and a MBA, both from the University of Minnesota, and is completing a University of Minnesota post-baccalaureate certificate in health care innovation and design.

Fonnest has lived in Golden Valley for 17 years and owns Dawnview Coffee Company (DCC), a small business with 18 employees. He has served on numerous governor appointed commissions focused on community service and youth development and has been a board member of the Minnesota Office of Volunteer Services. He currently serves on Golden Valley's Board of Zoning Appeals. Fonnest has a degree in political science and a masters' degree in natural resource management from the University of Minnesota.

Snope has lived in Golden Valley since 1998 and is a political coordinator for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Minneapolis Local Union 292. He enjoys volunteering in the community, including work for Habitat for Humanity and set up of the KARE 11 Toys for Tots display and the Lake Phalen Holiday Lights in the Park charity event in St Paul. Snope is currently chair of the Golden Valley Human Rights Commission. He has a degree in electrical construction from Dunwoody Institute and worked as an electrician for the first 23 years of his career.

Schmidgall was sworn in to fill the special election seat Nov 12, 2013. Fonnest and Snope will be sworn into office Jan 7, 2014.



Help Design The 2014 Run The Valley T-Shirt

The Golden Valley Human Services Fund (GVHSF) is seeking colorful, eye-catching, and unique graphic design entries for its annual Run The Valley 5K/10K Walk/Run T-shirt contest. (Each race participant receives a T-shirt.)

There are no requirements regarding message, size, or color. The designer may choose content; however, the City of Golden Valley logo or the name "Golden Valley Human Services Fund" must appear somewhere within the design. The GVHSF reserves the right to add these features to the design if not included.

The T-shirts will be white, all cotton, long sleeve. Printing will be three-color silk-screen (two colors are acceptable if the design is better suited to this format). Submit design in camera-ready format for use by the printer (color separations preferred). The

GVHSF will handle all printing. The designer may proof the printing, if desired.

The winning design is selected by consensus of GVHSF members. The winning designer will be awarded \$50 and two T-shirts after printing and be acknowledged in City publications. GVHSF shall have sole ownership of the winning design and permission to reuse it when so desired.

The deadline for entries is Jan 8, 2014. Submit entries with your name, address, phone number, and email to Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway, Golden Valley, MN 55426. Complete contest rules available at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/runthevalley/contest.php.



*Run the Valley 2013
T-Shirt Design by
Jessi Brummer*

Recycle Your Old Appliances

When an appliances dies, disposal options are often limited by whether you're able to haul it yourself or if you need to have it picked up.

Pick Up

If you can't haul your old appliances away or don't want to drive to a Hennepin County drop-off facility, you can arrange to have them picked up at your home for a fee, says Mark Ray, recycling coordinator. Just call Allied Waste at 952-941-5174 to arrange the special pick-up. Do not place the appliance in your recycling cart.

Once you call, Allied will tell you what days crews are available to pick up your appliance. The charge is \$45–\$55, and additional fees may apply. You will be asked to pay in advance by credit card.

Drop Off

While scheduling to have old appliances picked up may be the most convenient method, bringing them to a Hennepin County Drop-Off center is still most likely the cheaper way to go, adds Ray.

The two drop-off facilities, located at Brooklyn Park and Bloomington, are open Tuesday through Saturday. Hours and fees vary, so make sure to confirm both at www.hennepin.us/ (type "drop off" in the search engine and the appropriate link will be provided).

For more information about Golden Valley's recycling program, visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recycling.

Recycling Carts: One Size Does Not Fit All

It has been nearly two years since Golden Valley updated its recycling program, switching from a separated-sort system with two crates to a single-sort system with one wheeled cart. By now, many residents may have a better idea of which size cart will best fit their needs. Some have found even the largest cart isn't big enough and have requested an additional cart.

Carts are available in three sizes—96, 68, and 36 gallon. As illustrated in the photo, width and height differences are apparent.

There is no charge to swap your cart for one of a different size, or to get an additional cart. To make arrangements, call Allied Waste at 952-941-5174.



Golden Valley Recycles

GRAY Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Christmas	Sat, Dec 28

BLUE Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
New Year's 2014	Sat, Jan 4

Missed Pick Ups

If your recycling is missed on Friday, call Allied Waste at 952-941-5174, Option 5, before noon on the following Monday. If you have specific recycling questions, call 763-593-8030.

The Golden Valley Recycling Program is partially funded by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners.



To sign up to receive emailed recycling updates and reminders, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe.

When De-Icing Your Walkways, Be Mindful Of Our Waterways

An icy surface turns walking into a hazard, so naturally residents do what they can to melt away the slick onslaught of winter.

When people use salt to melt ice and spread sand to create better traction, they may not realize it can have harmful environmental effects if washed into storm sewers and then into streams and lakes. Metro area waters have become increasingly salty since the early 1950s, and chloride is the culprit.


Chloride from road salt and the products people use to de-ice walks and driveways can harm plants and animals, contaminate our drinking water, and corrode vehicles, roads, and bridges.

The City of Golden Valley offers the following tips for fighting slippery surfaces while minimizing environmental damage.

- Use chemicals and salt sparingly. If you apply salt and there are leftover crystals visible after the ice has melted, you have used too much. Leftover salt can be swept up and re-used or disposed of in the trash.
- De-icers should not be used to melt every bit of snow and ice; they are for breaking up ice so you can shovel it away.
- Before a big storm arrives, apply a liquid de-icer to prevent ice build-up. You can make de-icer by mixing two cups of hot water with one cup of salt in a spray bottle. This brine helps keep the ice crystals from bonding to the pavement or your steps and will make shoveling easier and more effective.
- Shovel, blow, or plow your snow, and/or sweep as soon as possible. The longer you wait and the more the snow is walked or driven on, the more likely it will bond to the pavement and form ice.
- Limit chemical applications on surfaces near environmentally sensitive areas, including streams, ponds, wetlands, and sensitive landscape and vegetation.
- After the snow melts, sweep excess sand or salt to prevent it from washing into storm drains and streams.
- Remove slush on warm days so it doesn't have a chance to freeze again.
- Fix rain gutters so they drain away from sidewalks and driveways.
- Alternatives to rock salt, such as calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, and calcium magnesium acetate, are less harmful to the environment than sodium chloride.
- Temperature matters. Salt is less effective when temperatures fall below 15° F. When it's really cold outside, use sand, or sand mixed with a little salt, to provide traction until the ice can melt. 

Golden Nugget

Enghauser Extended Wright Influence on Golden Valley Homes



Paul Enghauser, a builder who developed much of Tyrol Hills and other areas of Golden Valley, was reportedly a student of Frank Lloyd Wright. His homes were built to fit into existing landscapes and followed the ranch-type look of Wright's designs. His most significant contribution (according to University of Minnesota geography professor John Borchert) is the curvi-linear streets that are seen in much of the city and can be dated back to Enghauser's membership on the Planning Commission. Enghauser died in 1984 but his legacy, through his designs, lives on in Golden Valley.

Courtesy of The Little White Paper, published by the Golden Valley Historical Society, Nov 2013.

Historic Green And White Street Signs Make Unique Gifts

Proceeds Benefit Golden Valley Historical Society

The City of Golden Valley has replaced all of its street-name signs in the city to comply with new federal regulations regarding sign letter size and retroreflectivity to improve nighttime visibility. The old signs, which have a green background with a white border, letters, and numbers, are available to buy from the Golden Valley Historical Society.

They make a great gift for the holidays, especially if you have a college-aged kid looking to decorate a dorm room, or if you know someone whose name is the same as that listed on the street sign.

There are a number of second generation Golden Valley street signs still for sale with names of people on them, such as Georgia, Douglas, Gregory, and Kyle.

Each sign sells for \$25. Proceeds benefit the Golden Valley Historical Society. To order a sign, contact Don Anderson at 763-588-8578 or maryanddon3030@aol.com. 



Recreation Highlights

Complete list in the Winter Recreation Activities Brochure or at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation.

Youth

Mites Basketball (boys and girls grades K-1)—Sat am, Jan 25–March 15. Emphasis on fundamentals.

Youth Basketball (boys and girls grades 2-6)—January–mid-March. Register by Dec 10. Volunteer coaches needed.

Teen Pond Hockey Tournament (ages 13-18)—All levels, 3 vs 3 format, no goalie. Jan 18, Lions Park, \$35/team of 6.

Adult

Davis Community Center Open Gyms—8-10 pm: Mon (35+ Basketball), Tues/Thur (18+ Volleyball), Wed (18+ Pickleball); 8-10 am: Sat (18+ Basketball). Closed Nov 27-30, Dec 24-27, 31, and Jan 1.

Seniors

Monday Morning Paint Class—9-11 am, Brookview. Learn watercolors, acrylics, and oil. \$40/resident; \$45/nonresident for a 6-punch card.

Defensive Driving 4-hour Refresher—Dec 12, 9 am-1 pm. Register with Minnesota Safety Council at 651-291-9150.

Holiday Tea—Dec 16, 1-2:30 pm. Music and refreshments. Register by Dec 11, \$8.

Living Wise And Well—"Simple Exercises: Focus on Shoulders." Jan 2, 1-2 pm, Calvary Center Coop.

For more information or to register, call 763-512-2345 for Youth and Adult and 763-512-2339 for Seniors (M-F, 8 am-4:30 pm). Register in person, by mail, fax, or online.



GV Playground Renewal

Five Will Get New Equipment In 2014

This year's annual safety audit of park play structures found five playgrounds in Golden Valley in need of repair or replacement due to age and extensive use: Lions, Gearty, Wildwood, Glenview Terrace, and Brookview.

"They're heavy use sites loved by the community, and they have been played on for years," says Rick Birno, director of parks and recreation.

The Brookview Park playground will get the most extensive and immediate work (see story on pages 8-9), with a complete replacement set to begin in 2013 and scheduled for completion in spring 2014.

As for Lions, Glenview Terrace, and Gearty, the City will request proposals from play structure vendors this winter and then invite residents from each park neighborhood to indicate their preferences at community meetings in January and February 2014. Neighborhood residents will receive postcards notifying them of meeting times and locations. Structure replacements are set to be completed during summer 2014, with the hope they'll be ready for summer use, Birno says.

Grant Funding

The playground renewal projects rely on a mixture of funding from the City, grants, and partners. For example, the multi-level play structure planned for Brookview Park will be partially funded with a \$72,000 grant awarded by GameTime Playground Company.

But work on Wildwood Park playground depends on Golden Valley, in partnership with the SEA School, receiving \$50,000 from the Hennepin Youth Sports Grant Program, which will be announced in late December. That would be on top of a \$15,000 commitment from the City and a \$15,000 commitment from the SEA School.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to partner with a community school and provide a new play structure for the neighborhood and the students that attend the school," Birno says.

Questions about Golden Valley's upcoming playground projects? Contact Parks and Recreation Director Rick Birno at 763-512-2342 or rbirno@goldenvalleymn.gov.

Skating Rinks in Golden Valley

Golden Valley's Park and Recreation Department (763-512-2345) maintains skating areas at 10 City parks. For 2013-2014, rinks are scheduled to open Dec 23 and close Feb 17 (weather permitting). To see a list rinks, amenities, and hours of operation, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/parks/skatingrinks/index.php.





Golden Valley Volunteers

Golden Valley's Volunteer Program aims to strengthen the community by connecting the talents, interests, and abilities of individuals and groups with projects that enrich City programs and services. Three projects this fall brought out volunteers to help with community improvement and beautification.



Lilac Project

On Sept 28, 36 volunteers showed up for the sixth annual Lilac Planting Party to help plant and weed the area along the north side of Hwy 55 between Douglas Dr and Glenwood Ave. After planting 45 shrubs, 6 perennials, and more than 300 daffodils and weeding and mulching the lilacs planted in 2011, volunteers enjoyed a lunch served by the Golden Valley Evening Garden Club.



Valley Volunteer Day

The third annual Valley Volunteer Day on Sept 28 included four projects: 10 volunteers worked to clear the SEA-cret Forest at the School for Engineering and Art, two volunteers "Busted Buckthorn" at the Golden Valley Historical Society, four volunteers helped with pumpkin painting at Peaceful Valley Montessori School, and a group of 27 Daisy Girl Scouts and parents "Tackled Trash" for an hour at Lions Park and the Laurel Ave Greenbelt.



Mighty Tidy Day

Seventeen volunteers, most of them National Honor Society students from Robbinsdale Cooper and Armstrong High Schools, worked for five hours Oct 12 at the City's ninth annual Mighty Tidy Day. As vehicles arrived at the community clean-up day, the volunteers unloaded donations of food, clothing, household goods, and furniture and re-loaded it into trucks and vans bound for Bridging and PRISM.

To get involved in Golden Valley's Volunteer Program on an ongoing basis or as part of a one-time event, sign up online at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/community/volunteers or call Volunteer Coordinator Sandy Werts at 763-512-2341. 

OPERATION: RESCUE ROOM

*Do you have the **baddest bathroom in the west metro?** The **cruddiest kitchen in the county?***

The 2014 West Metro Home Remodeling Fair is looking for ugly rooms that need to be rescued.

The third annual Operation Rescue Room contest will give \$1,000 to the homeowner whose room is voted most in need of help by visitors to the Home Remodeling Fair on Feb 23, 2014. Last year, Susan Bloyer of St. Louis Park won the contest and used the money to fix up her bathroom (see photos at right).

Get rules and entry forms at www.homeremodelingfair.com/rescue. Deadline to enter is Feb 16, 2014.



From this...



to this...

www.homeremodelingfair.com/rescue



Brookview Playground

Reimagined For A New Generation

By Ben Sandell, Assistant Editor

When I was a kid, every time I visited my grandmother in Golden Valley I'd beg her to take me to the old, wooden ship that was once the centerpiece of the Brookview Park playground.

The structure catalyzed my childhood imagination like nothing else. I would crawl within its secret passageways below deck, stand on the bow and look out across an ocean full of sharks, or tell my younger cousins to "batten down the hatches!" as a tidal wave threatened to throw us all overboard, never mind that I had no idea what "batten down the hatches" actually meant.

The ship could turn any lazy afternoon into a journey at sea, and visits there with my grandmother peppered my childhood with distinct memories of adventure. So when I found out a few years later that the structure had been permanently removed, I felt a loss.

Today, as I look back on this experience and research the history of Brookview Park, I realize I wasn't alone in how I felt. People loved that ship. They remembered playing on it as kids and enjoyed watching their own kids do the same. But it got too old, started splintering, and simply couldn't

keep up with modern safety standards. Sadly, it had to go.

The shared nostalgia surrounding that simple piece of equipment testifies to the importance of playground

design. To kids, it's not just a piece of equipment. It's a part of their childhood.

The old, wooden ship was removed 20 years ago and replaced with a set of modern equipment that helped spark the imagination of another generation of kids. And now, after two more decades of wear and tear, it's time again to replace the old with something new.

With the understanding of just how much a playground can mean to its community, the City of Golden Valley has not taken the process lightly.

"To kids, it's not just a piece of equipment. It's a part of their childhood."





Redesign Priorities

The City gathered public input this summer on what residents would like to see in a new playground. More than 170 residents offered feedback through an online survey.

“We tried to take all the top priorities identified by residents in the survey and by the members of the Open Space and Recreation Committee, and use those key design elements,” says Rick Birno, director of parks and recreation. They include:

- shade structures with picnic tables and benches
- two sets of swings, one for ages 2–5 and one for ages 5–12
- separated playgrounds for younger and older kids
- a rope-net climbing structure
- a small rock-wall climbing structure
- tall equipment with lookout areas
- multiple slides of various heights (see rendering on page 8)
- misting water structures for hot summer days
- a “unique and not-typical” design approach and style, with natural colors
- barrier-free playgrounds, meaning the entire play structure area will be accessible for all abilities

Balance

Designing a successful playground is all about balance, Birno says. When looking at new equipment, it’s a matter of trying to find what will challenge kids mentally and physically, but not be so advanced it will make them frustrated or be dangerous.

Several factors must be considered: safety, age appropriateness, cognitive, physical, and sensory stimulation, and social promotion through inclusive play.

Ease of socialization is important both for kids and adults, Birno says. Kids will make new friends as parents meet other parents, helping build community bonds. Good playground designs can facilitate that.

Safety

As a result of studies conducted over the last 30 years by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), playground equipment safety standards have changed. Some equipment, such as teeter-totters, are not seen in modern playground designs.

All of Golden Valley’s playground equipment meets CPSC and ASTM standards.

Funding

To help pay for the new playground, Golden Valley received a \$72,000 grant from GameTime Playground Company. The extra funding means the City can more easily meet residents’ hopes and expectations for the playground, such as providing multi-level play structures and water features with the most modern technology.

Brookview’s water features will be in the form of two fountains in the shape of boulders that spray light mist. To save water and money, the structure will be programed for operation only during warm, non-rainy days, and will be button-activated by residents and timed to turn off automatically.

Fully Operational By Summer 2014

The new playground design was approved by the City Council Nov 6 for construction to begin in fall 2013, weather permitting. It will be ready for use the Friday of Memorial Day weekend, and maybe sooner, Birno says. He thinks the playground will be well-received.

“A good park ought to have great green space, be inviting to the community, have amenities that meet the needs of the residents, and a playground that’s adventurous, but safe,” Birno says.

And for nostalgic people like me, the Brookview Park playground will feature one other detail survey responders marked as a priority: a play structure shaped like a ship. 🐳



Battling Domestic Violence:

Sojourner Provides Support And Fosters Safer Communities

As Minnesota looks back on 2013, one thing that stands out is the number of domestic violence deaths—nearly one per week, according to an editorial published in the *StarTribune* Oct 5.

The 35 deaths as of October (including one man) are more than double the number from 2012, when 14 women and one man died as a result of domestic violence, and not quite as many as 2000, when 40 women were killed.

The majority of women murdered in the US and Minnesota are killed by their current or former intimate partners, reports the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women (MCBW), which has tracked these homicides since 1989 in an annual “Femicide Report” (get more information at www.mcbw.org).

According to the most recent MCBW Femicide Report, “In 2012, 7 of the 14 cases of intimate partner homicide occurred after the woman had left the relationship or when she was attempting to leave.” Many of this year’s tragic deaths share that common thread.

“2013 has been a horrific year for domestic violence victims,” says Police Chief Stacy Carlson. “The danger point is always when they’re trying to leave.”

Getting To Safety

The police are often on the front line in getting victims into a safe environment. The Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) works with Sojourner Project Inc, a local non-profit organization that provides emergency shelter, legal advocacy, and support to victims of domestic violence.

When police make a domestic violence arrest they contact Sojourner, which then contacts the victims to offer support.

Referrals are also made by hospitals, churches, social workers, family, and friends.

“It’s a two-way connection,” says Carlson. “We refer Sojourner to victims or we refer victims to Sojourner. We want them to know help is available.”

Sojourner’s emergency shelter is a secure and confidential residence that provides victims with a safe place to stay, food, clothing, and transportation. On-site therapy for adults and children is also available. During the legal process, Sojourner provides advocacy assistance with safety planning, custody issues, or procuring protection orders. It also networks with agencies that help victims with medical, housing, and vocational concerns.

No matter what type of support someone needs, Sojourner’s services are free and available to anyone regardless of age, race, gender, religion, sexual preference, or differing abilities.

Working Together

Sojourner, the MCBW, and the GVPD all view domestic violence as a community problem that requires strong partnerships to raise awareness and promote prevention. Sojourner offers professional presentations and training sessions to educate the community about domestic violence and options for prevention. By providing information about Sojourner to victims, the GVPD is helping them take that first step toward safety.

For legal advocacy or victim support, contact Sojourner at 952-935-1004 (for immediate help, contact the 24/7 Crisis Line at 952-933-7422). To learn more about Sojourner and how you can help, go to www.sojournerproject.org or call 952-351-4062. To schedule a Sojourner presentation for a group, call 952-351-4066. ~



2014 Citizen's Police Academy

Tues, Jan 28–March 11, 6–9 pm
Golden Valley Police Department

Go behind the scenes at the Golden Valley Police Department. Get applications at the Police Department (7800 Golden Valley Rd) or at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/policy/gvpdu. Tuition is free!

Seven-week course covers:

- 911 Dispatch Center
- Police Investigations
- Crime Analysis

- Hennepin County Crime Lab
- Hennepin County Canine Unit
- NW Metro Drug Task Force
- SWAT Team
- Use of Force
- Patrol Operations

For more information, call the Golden Valley Police Department at 763-593-8079. ~



Golden Valley Fights Fire With Education

It may sound strange, but extinguishing fires isn't a firefighter's first duty. A firefighter's first duty is to prevent fires from occurring at all, and the most effective way to do that is through education.

The Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) provides a high volume of public education throughout the year, and firefighters were especially busy during October's fire prevention month.

"We hosted over 300 children at our stations and provided fire safety education to another 300 people in the community," says Stephen Baker, fire education specialist.

On Oct 9, 15 firefighters conducted fire drills and safety talks at 12 schools, daycares, and commercial properties throughout the area. It marked the 25th anniversary of the GVFD's annual school fire drills.

Each year, firefighters talk to around 800 kids about fire safety basics, including smoke detectors, escape plans, and the dangers of playing with matches and lighters, Baker says.

"We want kids to have interaction with firefighters," Baker says. Kids get excited about what they see and learn, and they hopefully take that information home to their parents, who often need a fire-safety refresher themselves, he adds.

"Typically, I send kids home with assignments, like testing smoke detectors with mom and dad," Baker says. Making sure smoke detectors are working properly throughout the house is one of the easiest ways to prevent fire-related fatalities. Keep in mind smoke detectors should also be replaced every 10 years.

Escape Plan

In addition to emphasizing the importance of smoke detectors, the GVFD also reminds people to create and practice a fire

escape plan and decide on a meeting place outside the home.

"One of the first things we do at a fire is ask if everyone is out of the house," Baker says. "If everyone is out and accounted for, then we can focus on putting out the fire. If everyone isn't accounted for, we must go into rescue mode."

CPR

In addition to fire safety education, the GVFD also spends a lot of time educating adults on non-fire-related safety measures, such as sudden cardiac arrest response.

In 2013, the GVFD has provided CPR training to nearly 600 people who live or work in the community, says Baker. The education has inspired the purchase of seven automatic external defibrillators in the area.

The next scheduled CPR class won't occur again until the spring, but Baker says he will teach a CPR class for a group of 15 or more any time they want. To set up a free CPR class for your group, contact Baker at 763-593-3977 or sbaker@goldenvalleymn.gov.

More Info

Learn more about fire prevention at www.goldenvalleyfire.com. While you're there, you can also look into becoming a firefighter yourself. ~



As snow accumulates throughout the season, fire hydrants get buried, creating problems for firefighters.

When something is burning, stopping to dig out a hydrant wastes crucial time.

That's why the Golden Valley Fire Department needs help keeping fire

hydrants clear of snow. A six-foot clear space around the circumference of a hydrant will help reduce the time it takes firefighters to hook up hoses if a fire occurs in your neighborhood.

The best time to shovel out a hydrant is after the streets are plowed, before snow accumulates and freezes.

Help make this winter a little better and a lot safer for your neighbors and your community by adopting a fire hydrant.

While shoveling your driveway, take an extra 10 minutes to shovel out the closest hydrant. It could save lives. ~



City's Snow Policies Focus On Safety

Golden Valley's Public Works Department is ready for the snow removal and de-icing needs of the City's 120 miles of local streets and 43 miles of sidewalk this winter.

To keep traffic moving, crews first plow collector and arterial streets that connect neighborhoods to State and County roads. Plowing stops if strong winds and drifting result in unsafe conditions; it resumes when conditions improve. The City calls a snow emergency after snow accumulates to two inches or more. However, an accumulation of consecutive snowfall events of less than two inches may initiate plowing.

Depending on weather conditions, de-icing crews use a variation of salt/sand-salt mixture on icy areas. Priority areas are treated first, and all other areas are done when time permits. Priority areas include:

- intersections of City streets and County and State roads, school and pedestrian crossings, bridge decks, and all arterial street stop sign intersections
- street intersections having higher than average traffic volumes, and streets with hills and curves
- all other stop signs and areas deemed hazardous by public works or police staff

Safety Around Snowplows

Efficient, effective snow removal requires public cooperation. Please follow these important reminders to help stay safe this winter:

- Reduce speed and keep a minimum distance of 50 feet from snowplows and sand trucks (frequent backing is necessary, and rear visibility is very limited).
- Never drive into a snow cloud or pass vehicles while they're plowing.

- Stay away from the end of a driveway when a snowplow is approaching.
- Keep sleds and toys away from the street when they're not being used.
- Never build snow forts or snow sculptures in the snow piles along the street.
- Keep garbage cans and recycling carts in the driveway and off roadways and sidewalks if it snows on collection days.
- Listen to weather forecasts and adjust any travel plans accordingly.

Dealing With Plow Damage

The City is not liable for damages to obstructions in the road right-of-way (irrigation heads, landscaping, etc). These obstructions should either be removed from the right-of-way or marked clearly so plow drivers can avoid them. The City will only repair mailboxes actually hit by a plow and installed to United States Postal Service Residential Mailbox Standards (for details, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/maintenance.php). Sod damage can be reported to Public Works at 763-593-8030 in the spring. Damages to sod are repaired each spring with black dirt and seed or sod.

If you have questions about the City's winter street maintenance, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030 or publicworksdept@goldenvalleymn.gov. 

Rules For Snow Season


Snow Removal From Private Property

Minnesota State Statute (169.42) and City Code, Section 8.08 prohibits removing snow and ice from private property (including driveways and parking lots) to a roadway, across a roadway, or onto a sidewalk or adjacent property. If you or your plowing contractor have questions regarding this, contact Bert Tracy, public works maintenance manager, at 763-593-3981 or btracy@goldenvalleymn.gov.

Parking On Public Streets

Parking is prohibited on public streets after a snowfall of at least two inches until the snow has stopped falling and the street has

been plowed to the curb line. During a large snow storm the City may plow a street multiple times. Keeping parked vehicles off the street will assist crews in efficiently and effectively clearing the snow. Vehicles in violation are cited by patrolling police. Vehicles found to be obstructing traffic or snowplows, and those still in violation after 24 hours, may be towed.

This winter, stay informed. Sign up for Golden Valley snow emergency email alerts at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe. 

PMP Reinvests In City's Infrastructure

In 2013, Golden Valley rehabilitated one mile of local streets and utilities as part of its ongoing Pavement Management Program (PMP):

- Yosemite Ave N between Glenwood Ave and Yosemite Circle
- Yosemite Circle from Yosemite Ave N to Loring Lane
- Loring Lane from Yosemite Ave N to Turners Crossroad N
- Woodstock Ave from Yosemite Ave N to Turners Crossroad
- Hwy 55 S Frontage Rd from Schaper Dr to cul-de-sac

Streets were reconstructed to City standards, including concrete curb and gutter. The project also addressed necessary repairs to the storm sewer, water mains, and sanitary sewer mains.

2014 PMP

The 2014 PMP will include 1.2 miles of street in the area just south of Glenwood Ave between Jersey Ave S and Dakota Ave S:

- Western Ave between Jersey Ave S and Hampshire Ave N
- Hampshire Ave N between Glenwood Ave and Jersey Ave S
- Idaho Ave N between Glenwood Ave and Western Ave
- S Cortlawn Cir from W Cortlawn Cir to Edgewood Ave S
- N Cortlawn Cir from W Cortlawn Cir to S Cortlawn Cir
- W Cortlawn Cir from Western Ave to S Cortlawn Cir
- Florida Ct from Glenwood Ave to cul-de-sac
- Edgewood Ave S from Glenwood Ave to cul-de-sac

The City has completed preliminary survey and design work and met with affected property owners, and the City Council has authorized the project at a public hearing. The 2014 PMP project was designed at the same time as the 2013 PMP, and a public hearing for both projects was held Nov 7, 2012. The City

will bid the 2014 PMP in February 2014. Work is expected to start in spring 2014.

For more information about Golden Valley's PMP, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030. 

BEFORE



Woodstock Ave looking west

AFTER



Met Council Offers Grants For I/I Repairs


Grants will soon be available to assist residents who are rehabilitating their sanitary sewer lines as required by Golden Valley's Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) program.

The Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) division recently approved a \$1 million grant from the state Clean Water Fund to assist homeowners who choose to fully rehabilitate their private sanitary sewer line. The grant will cover one-third of the actual costs to rehabilitate I/I related defects in the privately owned sanitary sewer line, up to a maximum reimbursement of \$2,000. Grants will be issued first-come, first-served until all of the funds are spent.

Who Qualifies?

Golden Valley residents eligible to apply for the grant include those who had their sanitary sewer lines inspected by the City and have fully rehabilitated them after July 1, 2013, as well as residents who receive a City I/I inspection and make all I/I required repairs to their sewer line before the funds run out.

Application Process

The City of Golden Valley is finalizing the grant agreement with MCES and plans to begin taking applications for submittal/approval to MCES starting Dec 16, 2013. Watch for updates and additional grant information as it becomes available on the City website at www.goldenvalleymn.gov. 

Move Over For Emergency Vehicles

Despite what many people might assume, gun violence is not the leading cause of death for on-duty police officers—it's traffic accidents, and it's everyone's responsibility to make the roads a safer place for officers and other emergency personnel to do their jobs.

Most drivers know they are required to pull over and make way for emergency vehicles with activated lights and sirens. But too many drivers either don't know or don't obey the law that requires them to slow down and move over when passing emergency vehicles parked on the roadside.

"It's an everyday, common-place thing that people do not give us the space the law requires," says Golden Valley Police Officer Rob Zarrett.

Traffic safety is a priority of the Golden Valley Police Department, and enforcement of traffic laws is a regular activity for an officer on a shift.

"That's what we're supposed to be doing, and it's the most dangerous aspect of our job," Zarrett says.

The "move over" law, also known as the Ted Foss Law, was passed after Minnesota State Trooper Ted Foss was hit and killed during a traffic stop in 2000. The law requires passing motorists on two-lane highways to leave a lane vacant between them and parked emergency vehicles, providing a buffer space for the emergency personnel.

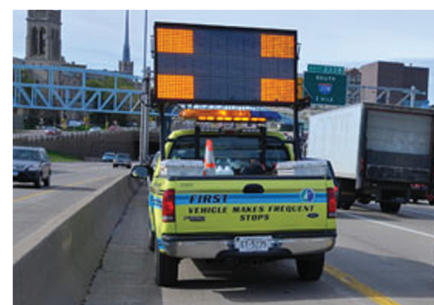
If you are unable to move over due to an obstruction or you don't have enough time to move over, then at least slow down, Zarrett says.

Failing to take these actions can lead to a ticket and fine exceeding \$100.

The law also applies to maintenance crews, ambulances, fire trucks, tow trucks, and other government vehicles parked on the side of the road with emergency lights activated. In fact, Zarrett says, it's best to slow down and allow space for any parked vehicle. It's just a good habit to get into, especially for when the weather is bad or the roads are icy. You never know if someone might be trying to change a tire or if a child will run out from behind the parked car.



In 2012, more than 65 police officers and firefighters in the US were killed in the line of duty due to traffic-related accidents. In Minnesota, 25 police/fire/ambulance vehicles were struck while parked on Interstate, US, and State highways.



Approximately 100 roadway construction workers in the US are killed each year in work zones.

One Illegal Thing You Should Never Do In Winter

It's an all-too common practice in Minnesota. You're late for work, there's been a frost overnight, and you only take enough time to scrape away a 4-inch by 4-inch hole in the ice on your windshield before driving off. It's called peephole driving, and Golden Valley police would like to remind residents that it is not a Minnesota "badge of honor," but a reckless and illegal act.

Peephole driving is dangerous. First, it obstructs your visibility considerably. Second, it increases the chance of ice breaking loose and obstructing your vision entirely, something that, even at low speeds, can be deadly.

Minnesota law requires that your front windshield and front side windows are clear enough so your vision is

not obstructed in any way. And this doesn't just apply to ice and snow.

Minnesota Statute 169.71 states: A person shall not drive or operate any motor vehicle with a windshield cracked or discolored to an extent to limit or obstruct proper vision; any objects suspended between the driver and the windshield, other than sun visors and rearview mirrors and electronic toll collection devices, and any sign, poster, or other nontransparent material on the front windshield, sidewings, or side or rear windows of the vehicle, other than a certificate or other paper required to be displayed.

Remember, you must be able to see a potential hazard to respond safely, so keep those windows clear. The law even applies to built-up steam on your windows, so keep those defrosters running.



UPCOMING (free) events

ART SHOW

Dec 9–20

Golden Valley Library

Stop by during library hours and view the beautiful work created by the students and instructors of the Golden Valley Seniors Program Monday Morning Paint Class.

GVPD “Toys for Tots” Drive
through Dec 19 (see page 16)

Mailbox to the North Pole
through Dec 20

Brookview Community Center

Drop off letters at Santa Claus’ special Direct-to-the-North Pole mailbox at Brookview Community Center. Include full name and address for replies.

NEW YEAR’S EVE FAMILY EVENT AT SCHEID PARK

Tue, Dec 31 | 7–10 pm

Scheid Park, 1856 Toledo Ave N

Enjoy skating, sledding and other winter fun activities. Hot chocolate will be provided.

Run The Valley T-Shirt Design Contest

Submit entries by Jan 3 (see page 3)

Brookview Picnic Shelter 2014 Reservations

Thur, Jan 9 | 8 am

Brookview Community Center

Opening day for Golden Valley residents to reserve Brookview picnic shelters for 2014. In-person-only reservations taken the first hour (8–9 am). Details at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/parks/brookview/shelters.php.

WINTER WHITE-OUT DANCE FOR GRADES 5–7

Fri, Jan 24 | 7–9:30 pm

Crystal Community Center

\$5 by Jan 23, \$8 at the door

Wear white to help create a cool atmosphere and to receive a raffle ticket to win great prizes. Co-sponsored with Crystal, New Hope, and Robbinsdale. Snacks and beverages available for purchase.

Citizen’s Police Academy

Jan 28–March 11 | 6–9 pm (see page 10)

More event information at: www.goldenvalleymn.gov/calendar

WEST METRO HOME REMODELING FAIR

Sun, Feb 23 | 10:30 am–3:30 pm
Eisenhower Community Center
1001 Hwy 7, Hopkins



Get inspired, gather resources, and gain knowledge at the West Metro Home Remodeling Fair!

Co-sponsored by Cities of Golden Valley, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and St Louis Park and St Louis Park, Hopkins, and Minnetonka Community Education, the West Metro Home Remodeling Fair promotes improvements to the housing

stock in each community. Featuring vendors, seminars, and demonstrations, children’s activities, and more, this event appeals to do-it-yourselfers as well as those looking to hire experts.

Be sure to check out Operation Rescue Room (see page 7) for an opportunity to win \$1,000 if you happen to have the ugliest room in the west metro.

For event details, go to www.homeremodelingfair.com.



7800 Golden Valley Road
Golden Valley, MN 55427

763-593-8000
763-593-3968 TTY

www.goldenvalleymn.gov

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Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund

Donation Form

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Contribution: _____

Send donations to:

Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund
Golden Valley Police Department
7800 Golden Valley Rd
Golden Valley, MN 55427

All donations are tax-deductible.

Support The GV Crime Prevention Fund

Each year the Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund (GVCPF) works with the City to offer programs that help you keep safe while introducing you to our police and fire employees.

GVCPF programs such as Police and Fire in the Parks, Junior Police Academy, and Bike Rodeo help our youth interact with City Public Safety personnel in a fun way. This familiarity helps children if they have a more serious interaction with police in later years. Senior Safety Series teaches adults ways to keep safe, and Citizens Academy offers a glimpse into how the Police Department works. These programs also put names to the faces of the men and women who serve our community so well. Events like Night to Unite provide opportunities to connect with neighbors and meet the police officers and firefighters who stop by the parties for a bit.

For me, getting to know our Public Safety Department has been a real privilege. During a series of unforeseen mishaps starting when our children were teens, we made many calls to the Golden Valley Police Department for help. Each time we found the responding officers to be courteous, concerned, and knowledgeable about our situation. Thanks to the excellent help and advice we received over the years from these well-trained professionals, our problems resolved. Many years later the officers still follow up with us and ask how things are going!

Would Golden Valley still be a safe place to live without the Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund? Probably. We are so much the richer community, however, when residents and employees work together as a united and friendly team. We appreciate your financial support in helping us achieve our goals.

Nancy Azzam, GVCPF President



Donate Toys At GVPD

For 18 years, the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) has led regional law enforcement agencies in a unique approach to the Toys for Tots donation effort.

It starts with a toy collection at the GVPD. On the last collection day, police from as many as 20 departments load their cruisers with donated gifts and meet at the GVPD. Then, lights blazing and sirens blaring, they parade to the KARE 11 Toys for Tots drop-off site.

If you want to help, bring new, unwrapped toys to the GVPD at 7800 Golden Valley Road (open 24 hours a day) between Nov 24 and Dec 19 (at 3 pm). Don't forget gifts for older kids and teens. For more information, contact Sgt Steve Johnson at 763-512-2505.



WATCH THE TOYS FOR TOTS PARADE

Dec 19 | 4:30 pm

The route starts at the GVPD (7800 Golden Valley Rd) and follows Winnetka to Hwy 55 to General Mills Blvd to the KARE 11 parking lot.



This document is available in alternate formats upon a 72-hour request. Please call 763-593-8006 (TTY: 763-593-3968) to make a request. Examples of alternate formats may include large print, electronic, Braille, audiocassette, etc.

